



# MA Political Theory

(One Year Full Time or  
Two Years Part Time)

## Introduction

Studying Political Theory means reflecting on and evaluating political activity and institutions. Such systematic thinking about politics is indispensable to understanding and participating in the life of our own state and a newly global world. Students examine the moral dimension of politics, exploring concepts such as justice, freedom, inequality, democratic participation and issues such as human rights, immigration, and climate change; informed by both contemporary political thinkers and the history of political thought.

Students also investigate more immediate policy issues of concern to governments, the media, civil society groups and individual citizens. Students acquire the ability to uncover creative ways forward in situations of conflict, inequality and global change. A wide range of specialisations are available to enable students to select areas where they wish to develop their expertise. The course structure offers students the option to undertake an internship to develop their professional skills.

## Programme Highlight

This programme aspires to allow students become specialists in critical thought and reflection on key issues in political theory, capable of engaging with cutting edge philosophical debates and practical applications thereof in the realm of practical politics.

## Programme Content and Structure

**90 credits**  
Taught Masters

=

**60 credits**  
Taught Modules

+

**30 credits**  
Dissertation

or

**30 credits**  
Internship

### Core Modules:

- POL40140 Global Issues in Pol Theory
- POL42330 Research Design

### Core Options:

Students must select at least 2 of the following modules:

- PHIL40420 The Good Society
- POL41030 Theory of Human Rights
- POL42000 Political Theory and the EU

Please see [www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions](http://www.ucd.ie/graduateadmissions) for a full list of modules.

MA students choose no more than one optional module from the following partial list:

- Theories of International Relations
- International Political Economy
- Comparative Public Policy
- Comparative European Politics
- Politics of Human Rights
- Psychology of Conflict in Middle East
- Gender in Peace and Conflict
- EU Foreign and Security Policy
- Peace & Conflict Studies
- International Security

## Why study at UCD?



### Graduate Education

12,000 graduate students; 17% graduate research students; structured PhDs



### Graduate Employability

Ranked no. 1 in Ireland in QS Graduate Employability ranking



### Global Careers

Dedicated careers support; 2 year stayback visa to work in Ireland



### Global Community

8,500 international students and 300,000 alumni network across 165 countries



### Global Profile

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide



### Welcoming Campus

Modern parkland campus with 24 hr security. Wide range of facilities, clubs, societies and supports



## Career Opportunities

Graduates work with a wide variety of international private-sector employers, government agencies and Non-Governmental Organisations in roles such as: academics, policy analysts, diplomats, lawyers, journalists.

Recent graduates of UCD School of Politics & International Relations now work in:

- UK Foreign Office,
- US State Department,
- Irish Civil Service,
- University College London, and
- University of Melbourne.

## Graduate Profile



**Rhona Gaynor**

Project Manager, Civil Service, Ireland

After graduating from UCD with an MA in Political Theory, Rhona completed an MPA in Public Policy and Management in London School of Economics and Political Science.

The MA in Political Theory provided a fantastic education in ethics, citizenship, social justice, and most importantly critical thinking. Through a programme of challenging, provocative, and diverse courses – including 'The Political Theory of Violence', 'Contemporary Debates in Citizenship' and 'Poverty, Development and Global Justice' – the MA provided me with core skills that continue to shape and influence my thinking. Through the process of participating in seminars and developing my final thesis, I was both challenged and supported to look at old problems in new ways, express complex ideas clearly and build strong, logical, and original arguments. I highly recommend this course, and if given the opportunity, would take it again tomorrow.

## Applicant Profile

- This programme is intended for applicants with a degree in political science, philosophy, law, international relations, sociology, history, geography, economics, public policy, development studies. An upper second class honours, or international equivalent is required.
- Your application will be considered on its individual merits and relevant professional experience will also be taken into account.
- Applicants whose first language is not English must also demonstrate English language proficiency of IELTS 6.5 (no band less than 6.0 in each element), or equivalent.

## Fees and Scholarships

Tuition fee information is available on [www.ucd.ie/fees](http://www.ucd.ie/fees). Please note that UCD offers a number of graduate scholarships for full-time, self-funding international students, holding an offer of a place on a UCD masters programme. Please see [www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships](http://www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships) for further information.

SPIRe also offers EU fee scholarships to graduate students. Please see [www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship](http://www.ucd.ie/spire/study/prospectivemastersstudents/spiremastersgraduatescholarship) for further information.

## Related Masters

- MA/MSc Politics
- MSc International Relations
- MA Philosophy and Public Affairs
- Master in Public Policy

### CONTACT US

#### EU Students

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w: [www.ucd.ie/spire](http://www.ucd.ie/spire)

#### International Students

e: [internationalenquiries@ucd.ie](mailto:internationalenquiries@ucd.ie)

w: [www.ucd.ie/global](http://www.ucd.ie/global)

### APPLY NOW

This programme receives significant interest so please apply early online at

[www.ucd.ie/apply](http://www.ucd.ie/apply)